

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
& VETERANS RELATIONS**

April 6, 2010

The Honorable,
The Board of Commissioners of Cook County

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Suffredin, Vice Chairman Silvestri, Commissioners Beavers, Butler, Claypool, Daley, Gainer, Gorman, Goslin, Murphy, Peraica, Reyes, Sims, Schneider and Steele (15)

Absent: Commissioners Collins and Moreno (2)

Also Present: Derek Blaida, Special Assistant and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Zahra Ali, Interim Director of Revenue, Stephen S. Morrill, Morrill & Associates; Gregory M. Gill, Venable, LLP;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Committee on Legislation, Intergovernmental & Veterans Relations of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County met pursuant to notice on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at the hour of 12:30 PM in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Your Committee has considered the following items and upon adoption of this report, the recommendations are as follows:

305025 **STEPHEN S. MORRILL, MORRILL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.** (PROPOSED CONTRACT). Transmitting a Communication, dated February 4, 2010 from Todd H. Stroger, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners:

requesting authorization for the Purchasing Agent to enter into a contract with **STEPHEN S. MORRILL OF MORRILL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**, whose name I am submitting for consideration as a county lobbyist. Mr. Morrill will serve for a period of ~~eleven~~ ten months beginning February 1, 2010 through ~~December 31, 2010~~ November 30, 2010 in the amount of ~~\$65,000.00~~ \$59,091.00.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: ~~\$65,000.00~~ \$59,091.00. Contract period: February 1, 2010 through ~~December 31, 2010~~ November 30, 2010. (018-260 Account). Requisition No. 100180012.

Approval of this item would commit Fiscal Year 2010 funds.

***Referred to the Committee on Legislation, Intergovernmental & Veterans Relations on 2/9/10.**

Derek Blaida, Special Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs, delivered brief remarks. Mr. Blaida stated the Governor proposed a budget with a projected \$13.5 billion short fall. Inclusive is a proposed cut to one of the most important streams of revenue to municipalities, the local municipal distributor fund. The cut would mean a 30% reduction of Cook County's distribution and the lobbyist will work diligently to keep Cook County's funds. Mr. Blaida indicated the state will attempt to hold the County harmless as much as possible.

Vice-Chairman Silvestri inquired about the state income tax year in relation to the proposed State budget. Mr. Blaida stated in Fiscal year 2008, he believed the unincorporated areas of the County, received approximately \$99 per person. This year, the County will receive approximately \$77 per person because of falling income tax rates. The Governor's proposed budget, if adopted on its face, would drop to \$51 per person which would reduce the County distribution from about \$10.5 million to a little over \$7.1 million - a reduction of \$3.4 million.

Commissioner Daley requested that Mr. Blaida track any bills that would have an impact on the County's unfunded mandates and stipulated that these bills should be seriously monitored. Mr. Blaida stated that he would provide a report on these bills. In addition, Chairman Suffredin stated that there are other appropriation bills for the Boot Camp and funds for the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center that the County has got to fight for because they are not in the Governor's proposed budget at this point.

Chairman Suffredin requested Stephen S. Morrill, Morrill & Associates to provide brief remarks regarding pension and other budgetary issues. Mr. Morrill, provided a report detailing bills pending in the 96th Illinois General Assembly that affect the Cook County (see attachment #1) which includes the pension reform bill. Mr. Morrill state the pension reform bill passed and affects both of the County's pension funds.

Chairman Suffredin stated that Cook County now has the only law enforcement with a retirement age of 67 because Chicago and downstate police/fire funds were exempted from the bill. Mr. Blaida added that there is no early retirement bill. In addition, Chairman Suffredin asked the State's Attorney to provide the County with a legal opinion regarding other aspects of this bill, as well as a legal opinion on a document that the law firm, Sidley Austin LLP., distributed through the Commercial Club of Chicago. The Sidley Austin LLP document states that the County has the right to diminish pension benefits for current County employees' future earned benefits. Commissioner Gainer indicated she would welcome a clarification from the State's Attorney Office.

In closing, Chairman Suffredin stated that Mr. Blaida will provide the summary of the pension bill.

Vice Chairman Silvestri, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, moved to accept the amendment for Communication No. 305025.

Vice Chairman Silvestri, seconded by Commissioner Murphy moved the approval of Communication No. 305026 as amended. The motion carried.

305026 **SUSAN J. WHITE, SUSAN J. WHITE & ASSOCIATES, INC.** (PROPOSED CONTRACT). Transmitting a Communication, dated February 4, 2010 from Todd H. Stroger, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners:

requesting authorization for the Purchasing Agent to enter into a contract with **SUSAN J. WHITE OF SUSAN J. WHITE & ASSOCIATES, INC.**, whose name I am submitting for consideration as a county lobbyist. Ms. White will serve for a period of ~~eleven~~ ten beginning February 1, 2010 through ~~December 31, 2010~~ November 30, 2010 in the amount of ~~\$125,000.00~~ \$113,637.00.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: ~~\$125,000.00~~ \$113,637.00. Contract period: February 1, 2010 through ~~December 31, 2010~~ November 30, 2010 (490-260 Account). Requisition No. 104901005.

Approval of this item would commit Fiscal Year 2010 funds.

***Referred to the Committee on Legislation, Intergovernmental & Veterans Relations on 2/9/10.**

Chairman Suffredin stated that Susan White could not be present for the committee, however Ms. White has been presenting monthly reports.

Vice Chairman Silvestri, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, moved to accept the amendment for Communication No. 305026

Vice Chairman Silvestri, seconded by Commissioner Murphy moved the approval of Communication No. 305026 as amended. The motion carried.

305027 **GREGORY M. GILL, VENABLE LLP** (PROPOSED CONTRACT). Transmitting a Communication, dated February 4, 2010 from Todd H. Stroger, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners:

requesting authorization for the Purchasing Agent to enter into a contract with **GREGORY M. GILL OF VENABLE, LLP**, whose name I am submitting for consideration as a county lobbyist. Mr. Gill will serve for a period of ~~eleven~~ ten months beginning February 1, 2010 through ~~December 31, 2010~~ November 30, 2010 in the amount of ~~\$125,000.00~~ \$113,637.00.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: ~~\$125,000.00~~ \$113,637.00. Contract period: February 1, 2010 through ~~December 31, 2010~~ November 30, 2010. (490-260 Account). Requisition No. 104901004.

Approval of this item would commit Fiscal Year 2010 funds.

***Referred to the Committee on Legislation, Intergovernmental & Veterans Relations on 2/9/10.**

Gregory M. Gill, Venable, LLP; delivered brief remarks and answered questions. Commissioner Peraica inquired about quarterly reports.

Mr. Gill, stated that he can provide quarterly reports for the contractual period of February 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010. Chairman Suffredin stated it is the will of the body to receive quarterly report from Gregory M. Gill, Venable, LLP

Vice Chairman Silvestri, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, moved to accept the amendment for Communication No. 305027

Vice Chairman Silvestri, seconded by Commissioner Murphy moved the approval of Communication No. 305026 as amended. The motion carried.

Commissioner Peraica voted No on the above item.

305671 REVENUE DIRECTOR (APPOINTMENT). Transmitting a Communication, dated March 9, 2010, from Todd H. Stroger, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners:

Pursuant to § 2-433 of Chapter 2 of the Cook County Code of Ordinances, I hereby appoint Ms. **ZAHRA ALI** to the position of Revenue Director effective immediately.

Ms. Ali received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2002 from Loyola University where she majored in finance and minored in management. Ms. Ali later received her Master's Degree in Business Administration in 2007 from the Keller Graduate School of Management.

Ms. Ali is the current Acting Director of Revenue and has extensive experience with Cook County finances in that she has held several finance positions from 2002 to the present. Ms. Ali's experience specifically includes holding the key finance positions of Deputy Director of the Department of Budget and Management Services and, more importantly, Deputy Director of the Department of Revenue.

Ms. Ali's skills and experience are, and will continue to be, an asset to the Cook County Department of Revenue.

I submit this communication for your approval.

***Referred to the Committee on Legislation, Intergovernmental & Veterans Relations on 3/16/10.**

Zahra Ali, Interim Director of Revenue provided a brief overview of her qualifications which was followed by a brief presentation (see attachment #2).

Chairman Suffredin requested that the following documents in support of Zahra Ali, Interim Director of Revenue be entered into the record:

1. Resume of Zahra Ali.
2. Letter dated March 15, 2010 from M. Zia Hassan, PHD., Dean Emeritus and Professor of Management Science, Stuart Scholl of Business, Illinois Institute of Technology.
3. Letter dated March 21, 2010 from Grace L. Colbert-Mauldin.
4. Letter dated March 15, 2010 from The Honorable Dwight W. Welch, Mayor of Country Club Hills.

Vice Chairman Daley, seconded by Commissioner Sims, moved the approval of Communication No. 305671. The motion carried.

Commissioner Peraica voted No on the above item.

Chairman Suffredin asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code, Sec. 2-108(dd):


1. George Blakemore – Concerned Citizen

Commissioner Daley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman Silvestri. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

**YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS
WITH REGARD TO THE MATTERS NAMED HEREIN:**

Communication Number 305025	Approved As Amended
Communication Number 305026	Approved As Amended
Communication Number 305027	Approved As Amended
Communication Number 305671	Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Committee on Legislation,
Intergovernmental & Veterans
Relations


Larry Suffredin, Chairman

Attest:


Matthew B. DeLeon, Secretary

SPRINGFIELD STATUS REPORT

Prepared by Stephen S. Morrill

I. BUDGET ISSUES

Governor Quinn proposed his FY 2011 state budget on March 10. The current projected cumulative deficit of our state is \$13.5 billion. The Governor has made approximately \$2 billion in efficiencies in state government to reduce the deficit to \$11.5 billion. Of that \$11.5 billion, \$5.7 billion is the result of unpaid bills from the prior fiscal years leaving the current fiscal year operating deficit of \$5.8 billion.

In his FY11 budget address, the Governor proposed a one-time, \$300 million reduction to units of local government across our state through a reduction in aid from the Local Government Distributive Fund. Currently, municipalities, based on population in their cities and towns and counties, based on its population living in its unincorporated areas, receive aid from the state based on headcount from a fund from 1/10th of 1% of income tax proceeds generated in the fiscal year. The Governor's proposal reduces this amount by 30%.

Two years ago, counties received \$91 per resident in the unincorporated areas of the county. As state income tax revenues have fallen, today we receive approximately \$77 per resident. If the Governor's proposal is adopted by the Illinois General Assembly, it is projected that counties would only receive about \$51 per resident. In the aggregate, Cook County currently receives approximately \$10 million from LGDF. The Governor's proposal would reduce this amount by \$3 million.

II. PENDING BILLS OF INTEREST

SB 1946 (Cullerton/Madigan) -- Sent to the Governor

Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act. Exempts the changes made to the Illinois Pension Code under this amendatory Act from provisions providing that, if there is a conflict between the Act and any other law, the provisions of the Act or any collective bargaining agreement negotiated under the Act shall prevail and control. Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Makes changes applicable to persons who first become employees and participants under any system under the Code, other than a downstate police or downstate firefighter pension fund, the Chicago Police pension fund, the Chicago Firemen pension fund, or the Retirement Plan for Chicago Transit Authority Employees or service as a SLEP under IMRF, on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act concerning the following: conditions for retirement, calculation of salary, annual increases, survivor's annuities, and application of alternative formula provisions. Amends the Chicago Teacher Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Sets forth a new employer contribution schedule.

House vote on 3-24-10: 92-17-7

Senate vote on 3-24-10: 48-6-3

HB 354 (Osterman/E. Jones, III) -- Senate Assignments Committee

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that if any property tax is twice assessed for the same year, or assessed before it becomes taxable, and the erroneously assessed taxes have been paid either at sale or otherwise, or if properly assessed taxes have been overpaid (instead of or have been overpaid) by the same claimant or by different claimants, the county collector shall refund the taxes. Provides that in counties having a population of more than 3,000,000, if the county collector receives payment of any erroneously assessed taxes or overpayment of properly assessed taxes, the county collector shall: (1) pay, within 120 days after receipt of the payment or overpayment, a refund to the proper claimant regardless of whether a claim for refund is filed; or (2) when more than one person made the payment or overpayment and the county collector cannot determine to whom the refund should be made, send a notice within 30 days by certified mail return requested after receipt of the payment or overpayment advising those persons that a refund is due and the procedures to follow to obtain a refund.

House vote on 3-24-10: 114-0-1

HB 6062 (Feigenholtz/Garrett) -- Senate Assignments Committee

Provides that a county with a population of more than 3,000,000 is required by accept property tax payments by credit card beginning on January 1, 2012 (instead of January 1, 2011). Provides that all service charges or fees associated with the processing or accepting of a credit card payment by the county shall be paid by the taxpayer and shall not be refundable. Provides that the county shall not incur liability for or associated with the collection of a property tax payment by credit card. Provides that the acceptance of credit cards by a county with a population of more than 3,000,000 is not subject to the public hearing requirement of the Local Governmental Acceptance of Credit Cards Act. Amends the Local Government Acceptance of Credit Cards Act to make conforming changes.

House vote on 3-17-10: 112-3-0

SB 935 (Cullerton/D'Amico) -- House Rules Committee

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that in municipalities with a population of less than 1,000,000 and counties with a population of less than 3,000,000, an ordinance that provides for the administrative adjudication of automated traffic law enforcement system violations shall require that all determinations by a technician employed or contracted by the municipality or county that a motor vehicle committed a violation must be reviewed and approved by a law enforcement officer. Provides that in municipalities with a population of 1,000,000 or more and counties with a population of 3,000,000 or more, an ordinance that provides for the administrative adjudication of automated traffic law enforcement system violations shall require that all determinations by a technician employed or contracted by the municipality or county that a motor vehicle committed a violation must be reviewed and approved by a law enforcement officer or by an additional technician trained in traffic management and not employed by the contractor who employs the technician who made the initial determination. Provides that in all municipalities and counties, the automated traffic law ordinance shall require that no additional fee shall be charged to the alleged violator for exercising his or her right to an administrative hearing, and the automated traffic law ordinance shall provide that after an administrative hearing where a person is found to have committed a violation, the person shall be given additional time to pay the civil penalty imposed equal to the amount of time that the person had to pay the original violation upon issuance. Provides that a municipality or county that produces a recorded image of a motor vehicle's violation must make the recorded images of a violation accessible to the alleged violator by providing the alleged violator with a website address, accessible through the Internet. Provides that a county or municipality, including a home rule county or municipality, may not use an automated traffic law enforcement system to issue violations in instances where the motor vehicle comes to a complete stop and does not enter the intersection during the cycle of the red signal indication unless one or more pedestrians are present, even if the motor vehicle stops at a point past a stop line or crosswalk where a driver is required to stop. Provides that a municipality or county that has one or more intersections equipped with an automated traffic law enforcement system must provide notice to drivers by posting the locations of the systems on the municipality or county website. Provides that an intersection equipped with an automated traffic law enforcement system must have a yellow change interval that conforms with the Illinois Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Provides that a municipality or county shall make a certified report to the Secretary of State in order to suspend a registered owner's driving privileges whenever a registered owner of a vehicle has failed to pay any fine or penalty due and owing as a result of 5 automated traffic law enforcement system violations.

Senate vote on 3-25-10: 45-10-0

SB 3089 (Raoul/Burke) -- House Rules Committee

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that the corporate authorities of a home rule municipality with 1,000,000 or more inhabitants, by ordinance, may order the county clerk to abate any percentage of the taxes levied by the municipality and any other taxing district on each parcel of certain qualified residential property within the corporate limits of the municipality that is owned by the surviving spouse of a fallen police officer or rescue worker. Effective immediately.

Senate vote on 3-11-10: 52-4-0

SB 3446 (Silverstein/Joyce) -- House Rules Committee

Amends the Property Tax Code. In a Section concerning payments under the accelerated method of billing, provides that, for tax year 2010, the estimated first installment of unpaid taxes shall be deemed delinquent and shall bear interest after April 1 (instead of March 1) at the rate of 1.5% per month. Effective immediately.

Senate vote on 3-10-10: 55-0-0

HB 6239 (Rita) -- Passed the House

Provides that a counties with a population over 750,000 may provide for a system of administrative adjudication of violations of certain county ordinances. Provides that administrative adjudication is not the exclusive method to enforce the ordinances. Sets forth the powers and qualifications of hearing officers. Provides for notice and opportunity for a hearing at administrative proceedings. Provides that the rules of evidence do not apply in administrative hearings. Provides for judicial review of administrative decisions. Allows a home rule county to enforce judgments of hearing officers. Provides that existing systems of administrative adjudication shall not be affected. Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that a municipality or "county" may provide for a system of administrative adjudication for violations of parking, standing, compliance, and automated traffic laws. Sets forth the requirements for a county ordinance establishing a system of administrative adjudication. Provides that the system of administrative adjudication shall provide for (i) a traffic compliance administrator, (ii) a parking, standing, compliance, or automated traffic law violation notice, (iii) a hearing for the registered owner of a vehicle cited in a violation notice, (iv) a petition to set aside a determination of liability for a violation, and (v) other necessary provisions. Makes other changes. Effective immediately.

House vote on 3-25-10: 96-13-1

III. OTHER LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

HB 4973 (Reitz/Leuchtefeld) -- Postponed in Senate Local Government Committee

Amends the Counties Code and the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that a county or a municipality may, by ordinance, impose a fee against persons making false alarms. Provides that a fee may not be imposed if (i) the emergency telephone system or a public safety agency is notified that the alarm is unfounded before a public safety agency responds to the alarm or (ii) the alarm system is being installed, repaired, maintained, or tested and the emergency telephone system and public safety agency are notified in advance of the activity in connection with the alarm system. Provides that a fee may not be imposed against a person if the call was initiated due to symptoms that could require emergency medical attention. Defines "alarm" and "false alarm".

House vote on 2-18-10: 68-48-1

HB 5128 (Nekritz) -- Referred to House Rules Committee

Amends the Cook County Forest Preserve District Act. Provides that the commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County shall be elected from 3 specified election districts. Provides the election procedures and terms of office for the 9 commissioners. Provides that the president, with the advice and consent of the board of commissioners, must appoint a general superintendent. Provides that the general superintendent is the chief administrative officer of the district. Amends the Election Code. Provides that, at the general election in the appropriate even-numbered years, the offices of commissioner of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County shall be filled. Contains other provisions. Effective immediately.

Legislation will not move -- sponsor will not move bill

HB 6249 (Bradley) -- Referred to House Rules Committee

Creates the Family and Personal Protection Act. Establishes statewide uniform standards for the issuance of permits to carry concealed firearms in this State. Vests in the Department of State Police the authority to issue concealed firearms permits to qualified applicants. Requires an applicant to complete a training course in handgun use, safety, and marksmanship. Also requires instruction in the law relating to firearm use. Creates the Citizen Safety and Self-Defense Trust Fund administered by the Department. The moneys in the Fund shall be used to administer the Act. Establishes restrictions on carrying concealed firearms. Establishes standards for the training course and for certifying instructors. Amends the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act. Provides that the Family and Personal Protection Act supersedes an ordinance of a unit of local government inconsistent with that Act. Prohibits a home rule unit from regulating the issuance of permits to carry concealed firearms. Amends the Criminal Code of 1961. Exempts, from an unlawful use of weapons and aggravated unlawful use of weapons violation, persons who carry or possess firearms in accordance with the Family and Personal Protection Act. Effective immediately.

Bill unlikely to advance this spring session

HB 6035 (Bradley) -- Referred to House Rules Committee

Amends the Counties Code and the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that a county or municipality may not require a law enforcement officer to issue a specific number of citations or warnings within a designated period of time. Provides that a county or municipality may not, for purposes of evaluating a law enforcement officer's job performance, compare the number of citations or warnings issued by the law enforcement officer to the number of citations or warnings issued by any other law enforcement officer who has similar job duties. Limits home rule powers.

Bill unlikely to advance this spring session

HB 5450 (Nekritz) -- Referred to House Rules Committee

Amends the School Code. Provides that educational service centers may provide training, technical assistance, coordination, and planning in the area of financial planning, consultation, and services. Provides that upon the removal from office, disqualification for office, resignation from office, a vacancy in the office, or expiration of the current term of office of the regional superintendent of schools, whichever is earlier, centers serving that portion of a Class II county school unit outside of a city of 500,000 or more inhabitants shall have and exercise, in and with respect to each educational service region having a population of 2,000,000 or more inhabitants and in and with respect to each school district located in any such educational service region, all of the rights, powers, duties, and responsibilities theretofore vested by law in and exercised and performed by the regional superintendent of schools for that area (only to the extent that additional money is appropriated for or provided to the centers). Provides that in educational service regions containing 2,000,000 or more inhabitants, the office of regional superintendent of schools is abolished upon the removal from office, disqualification for office, resignation from office, a vacancy in the office, or expiration of the current term of office of the regional superintendent of schools, whichever is earlier (instead of the office being abolished on July 1, 1994). Allows money in an institute fund to be used by the regional superintendent to defray all costs associated with the administration of teaching certificates. In the Duties of County Board Article, removes language that states that on and after July 1, 1994, certain provisions in that Article shall have no application in any county having a population of 2,000,000 or more inhabitants. Effective July 1, 2010.

Bill unlikely to advance this spring session

HB 5033 (Flowers) -- Referred to House Rules Committee

Creates the Nursing Care and Quality Improvement Act. Provides that each hospital shall implement a staffing plan that (i) provides adequate, appropriate, and quality delivery of health care services, (ii) protects patient safety, and (iii) is consistent with the requirements of the Act. Sets forth the minimum direct care registered nurse-to-patient ratios required in a unit of a hospital during each shift in that unit. Sets forth development and reevaluation requirements for the staffing plan. Prohibits a hospital from discharging, discriminating against, or retaliating against (i) a nurse in any manner with respect to any aspect of employment based on the nurse's refusal of a work assignment under certain conditions or (ii) a nurse or any individual, who, in good faith, reports a violation of the Act, initiates, cooperates, or otherwise participates in an investigation or proceeding under the Act, or informs or discusses with other individuals or with representatives of hospital employees a violation or suspected violation of the Act. Sets forth penalties for violation of the Act.

Bill unlikely to advance this spring session

HB 6126 (McGuire) -- Passed the House

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that all applications for judgment and order of sale for taxes and special assessments on delinquent properties shall be made within 90 days after the second installment due date (instead of during the month of October). Effective immediately.

House vote on 3-26-10: 93-0-0

HB 6021 (Watson) -- Referred to House Rules Committee

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that payment for delinquent taxes may be made at any time before the day of the sale (now, any time before the sale). Effective immediately.

Bill unlikely to advance this spring session

HB 5760 (J. Gordon) -- Referred to House Rules Committee

Amends the Counties Code. Provides that in actions for the violation of any county ordinance, the first process shall be a summons, "a notice to appear", or a warrant. Provides that the county sheriff of the county where the violation occurs may issue a notice to appear. In the case of a violation of a county's building code or property maintenance code, the county's code enforcement officer may issue the notice to appear.

Bill unlikely to advance this spring session

SB 2981 (Radogno/Bellock) -- House Human Services Committee

Amended in Senate to be a shell bill for MRSA legislation.

Senate vote on 3-12-10: 51-0-0

SB 2816 (Jacobs) -- Referred to Senate Assignments

Amends the Video Gaming Act. Provides that, if a municipality or county prohibits video gaming pursuant to the Act, then the Board, with the cooperation of the Department of Revenue, shall impose a monthly surcharge in an amount determined by the Board that the municipality or county would have been contributing under the Act had the municipality or county not prohibited video gaming, which shall be based on the maximum amount of machines that may be located within the municipality or county. Provides that, if a municipality or county fails to remit the surcharge, then the amount of the monthly surcharge shall be deducted from any amounts certified to be allocated to the municipality or county from the Local Government Distributive Fund in the next consecutive monthly allocation. Makes conforming changes in the State Revenue Sharing Act. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.

Bill unlikely to advance this spring session

SB 2486 (Pankau) -- Referred to Senate Assignments

Amends the Cigarette Tax Act and the Cigarette Use Tax Act. Provides that tax stamps sold on or after July 1, 2010 must be counterfeit-resistant and encrypted with certain information. Provides that the stamps shall (i) be produced in a secure facility certified in accordance with the security assistance standards established in 2005 by the American National Standards Institute and the North American Security Products Organization, (ii) incorporate a minimum of 4 layers of overt, semi-covert, and covert data, and (iii) instantaneously capture encrypted data. Requires distributors to acquire certain necessary equipment and provide the encrypted data to the Department of Revenue in the form and manner required by the Department. Requires the Department of Revenue to retain the data using a secure system. Provides that any distributor having stamped packages of cigarettes in his or her possession on July 1, 2010 may continue to possess, deliver, or distribute those stamped cigarettes. Effective immediately.

Bill unlikely to advance this spring session

SB 3355 (Schoenberg) -- Referred to Senate Assignments

Amends the Counties Code. Requires that the Cook County Board of Commissioners establish a permanent independent governing body for the Cook County Public Health System. Requires that the General Assembly must, by joint resolution, determine the independence of the governing body. Provides that if the Cook County Board of Commissioners does not establish a governing body and the General Assembly does not approve the governing body within 120 days after the effective date of the amendatory Act, then the Cook County Public Health System may not receive any State moneys until the governing body is established and approved. Limits home rule powers. Effective immediately.

Bill unlikely to advance this spring session

SB 2505 (Frerichs) -- Senate Third Reading

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that municipalities and counties may establish green energy special service areas. Provides that those green energy special service areas shall include only property for which each owner of record has executed a contract or agreement with the county or municipality consenting to the inclusion of the property within the green energy special service area. Provides that green energy special service areas are not subject to certain notice and hearing requirements set forth in the Property Tax Code. Provides that the owner of record of each parcel of property within a green energy special service area may arrange, through an agreement with the municipality or county, for specific energy efficiency improvements or renewable energy improvements and may obtain financing for such improvements through the process set forth in the ordinance establishing the special service area. Provides that counties and municipalities may levy property taxes in connection with green energy special service areas. Provides that counties and municipalities may issue bonds in connection with those special service area projects and may sell, assign, or pledge those bonds to the Illinois Finance Authority. Amends the Illinois Finance Authority Act to make conforming changes. Contains other provisions.

Senate Amendments #1-3 filed and recommended for adoption. Deadline extended until April 15.

SB 3401 (Schoenberg/Osterman) -- House Rules Committee

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that a charge for taxes and interest due on an omitted assessment shall not be made against property that was omitted more than 5 years prior to the current assessment year. Provides that charges may not be made for omitted assessments if (i) the assessor failed to notify the board of review, (ii) the assessor received a building permit, a survey, an aerial photograph, or a real estate transfer declaration for the property, or (iii) the property was the subject of an assessment appeal before the assessor or the board of review that had included the intended omitted property as part of the assessment appeal and provided evidence of its market value. Provides that the assessor shall transmit a copy of any decision and all evidence used in a decision regarding an omitted assessment to the board of review on or before November 1. Effective January 1, 2011.

Senate vote on 3-18-10: 55-0-0

SB 3529 (Viverito/Mathias) -- House Rules Committee

Amends the Property Tax Code. In Cook County, provides that the estimated first installment of unpaid taxes due in 2010 shall be deemed delinquent and shall bear interest after March 1 at the rate of 0.5% per month. Effective immediately.

Senate vote on 3-17-10: 56-0-0

IV. 2010 SESSION DEADLINES

Senate Deadlines

- February 11, 2010 – Introduction of Senate Bills
- March 5, 2010 – Substantive Senate Bills out of Senate Committees
- March 19, 2010 – Third Reading Deadline to Pass Senate Bills out of the Senate
- April 23, 2010 – Substantive House Bills out of Senate Committees
- May 7, 2010 – Third Reading Deadline to Pass House Bills out of the Senate
- May 7, 2010 – ADJOURNMENT

House Deadlines

- February 11, 2010 – Introduction of House Bills
- March 12, 2010 – Substantive House Bills out of House Committees
- March 26, 2010 – Third Reading Deadline to Pass House Bills out of the House
- April 23, 2010 – Substantive Senate Bills out of House Committees
- May 7, 2010 – Third Reading Deadline to Pass Senate Bills out of the House
- May 7, 2010 – ADJOURNMENT



Cook County Government
Department of Revenue
President Todd H. Stroger Jr.

Strategic Plan "Looking Ahead to Modernization"

Contents of Presentation

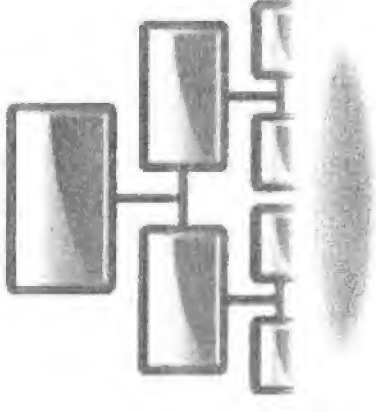
- Current Revenue Structure
- Business Strategy Overview
- Key Aspects to Reach Our Goal
- Plan for Success
- Road Map Proposal
- Closing



Current Revenue Structure

Current Organization

- Divisions – Collections, Compliance/Investigations, & Delinquent Property Tax
- Primary responsible for collection and enforcement of Home Rules Taxes



Key Observations

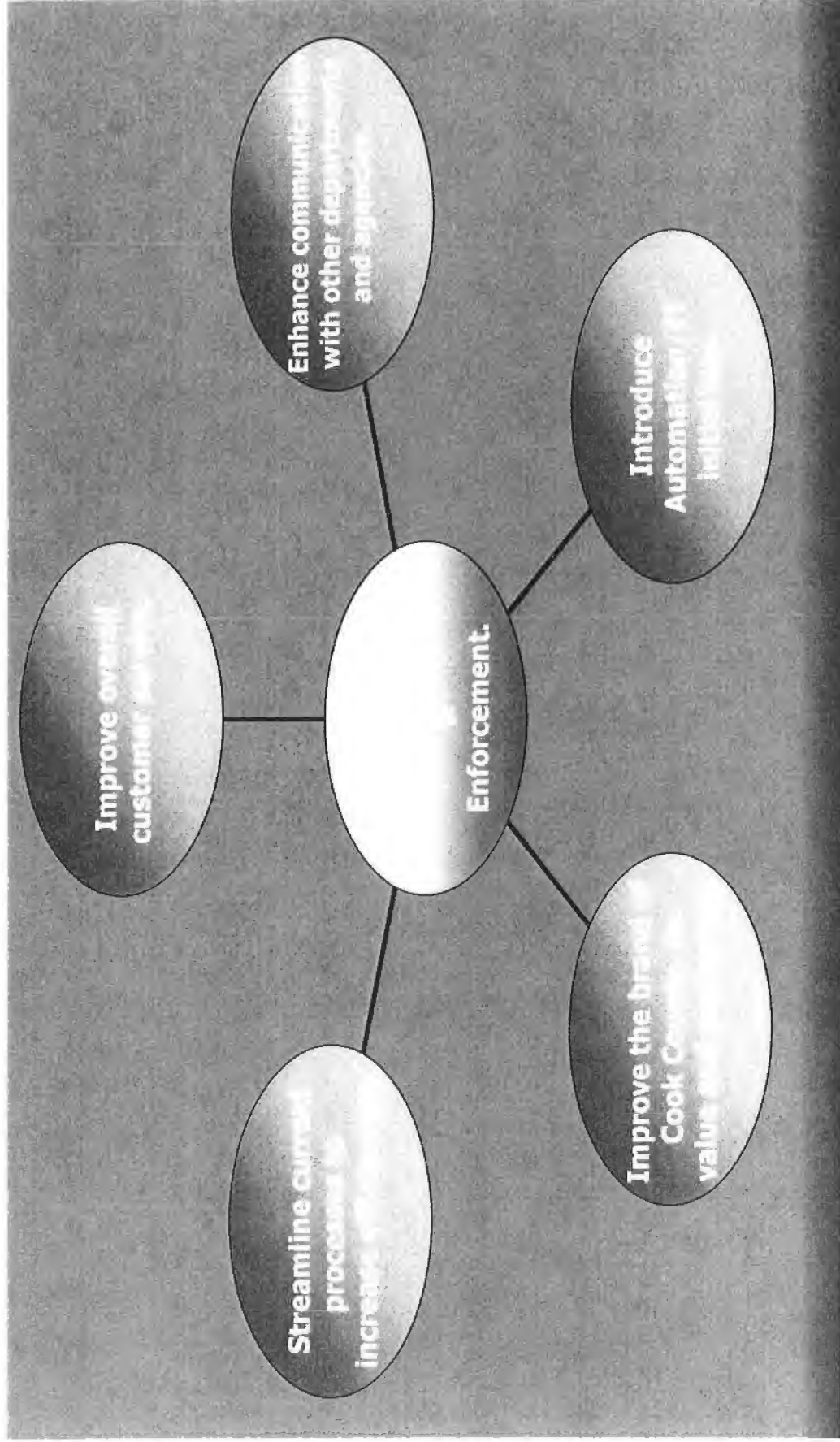
- The aged current operating model
- Resource limitations
- Need of introducing continuous process improvement techniques

Business Strategy

Value Chain – Supported activities to provide our end result.



Key Aspects to Reach Our Goal



Plan for Success

**Business
Process
Analysis**

Automation

**Home Rule Tax
Ordinances
Amendments**

**Other
Initiatives**

Road Map Proposal

Key Initiatives

- Revenue deficiency and delinquency assessment process.
- Home Rule Tax Ordinance amendments.
- General Business License web application.
- Cigarette Reward Program.
- Taxpayer Registration web application.
- Lockbox and e-payment service.
- Cigarette Database System.
- Collection agency engagement.

Results

- Recovery of revenues.
- Home Rule Tax Enforcement.
- Exceed and/or meet revenue projections.
- Create a "Presence" in Cook County.

